



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

Roundup Features

Hollywood on the Empire

Mark the date, and head for the Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Art Show on October 1. This year the Open House highlights the times of *Hollywood on the Empire*, when the Empire Ranch and surrounding area played host to scores of famous filmmakers and Hollywood stars. Come to visit and you'll see why!

We'll have a host of activities everyone can enjoy—fascinating western skills demonstrations, educational exhibits, kids' activities, ranch barbecue delights, live music, tours and lectures, even a fashion show of authentic period clothing reflecting the styles of the 1870's and beyond.

You can see screenings of *Red River*, the 1948 film classic starring John Wayne, and clips from other well known westerns filmed around Empire Territory. Show times are scheduled at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, inside the cool shadows of the repaired historic Adobe Haybarn.

Another "must see" will be the Roundup's Western Art Show & Sale, presenting outstanding original art work—nearly a hundred juried pieces—from a long roster of creative talent (see separate Art Show article).

A portion of all art sales benefits ERF. Come early and place your bid for the silent auction jewel "The Rancher's Daughter" (oil, 18 x 24") donated by artist Charles Thomas with full proceeds to benefit ERF.

Learn more from our Roundup summary sheet included with this issue (and at www.empireranchfoundation.org.)



"Then," Empire Ranch as location for 1948 film *Red River* starring John Wayne, shown here with Boice family members. (photo: courtesy S. Boice)



"Now," Empire Ranch Roundup 2004 branding demonstration by Mac Donaldson (photo: S. Hughes)

Join us! Bring family, friends and neighbors! No admission charge.

All Haybarn Emergency Repairs Now Complete

The failing northeast corner of the Adobe Haybarn, hidden behind a fissured buttress and cracking plaster, has now been exposed, its damaged adobes replaced, cracks

(continued on page 2)

Shoot Out at the Empire Inspires Roundup Art

This spring we tried something new at the Empire Ranch—a camera shoot out. We invited artists to come out for an authentic roundup headed up by four generations of the Donaldson family who have held the lease on the Empire since 1974. Armed with cameras and sketchpads, the crowd of approximately 70 people watched a spectacular scene of herding, driving, corralling and culling over a hundred cattle.

The ages of the Donaldson family participants ran from 84 to 5. It would be a close call to say which one of them was captured most in film. Most likely it would be a tie between John, the family patriarch, and the two tiny tots who looked like sea-

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"The Rancher's Daughter" (oil, 18"x24") by Charles Thomas, from April 14 shoot out (donated for Roundup silent auction).

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Volunteer Spotlight

Thanks to our volunteers, May 14, 2005, was a great day at the Empire. The front porch of the Victorian Addition got a much needed coat of white paint, as volunteers Alberto Moreno and Jose Coronado, who work for Tucson's Community Services Department, did a super job of spray painting. Their experience and enthusiasm really paid off in improving the appearance and preserving the porch area.

Equally talented were Bill and Deanne Bohling, also from Tucson, who meticulously painted many of the badly weathered sills of many adjacent windows.

Louise Worstman took pictures of the event. ERF President Sarah Miller pitched in with raking, cleaning, watering, and helping the volunteer day coordinator Frank Hedgcock repair screening tears on the screened porch.

Not only was there a lot accomplished, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There were great things to eat and the weather was perfect. Our thanks again to these great volunteers!



A new porch view, thanks to May 14 volunteers (photo: L. Worstman)

Haybarn (cont'd from p. 1)

mended, and a lime wash coating applied. This completes the full circle of needed emergency repairs to walls and roof.

We are most grateful for the \$25,000 BLM cost-share grant that made completing this final piece possible this year, and for the generous support of members that enabled ERF to qualify for the grant.

We have passed inspections, and are pleased that for the upcoming Roundup everyone will be able to watch Hollywood movie clips in the naturally cool shade of this fine historic adobe structure.



Trackers keep their heads down to spot passing wildlife (photo: V. Dean)

Wildlife Tracking on Las Cienegas

By Leslie Schupp

Sometimes we focus so much on the human activities at the Empire Ranch that we forget there is another world in the hills beyond it. For the past year, I have volunteered for a wildlife tracking project on Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, run by Sky Island Alliance, an environmental organization which is collecting data on where certain species cross the mountains (the "sky islands" of our desert environment) and the valleys.

Every six weeks, several other volunteers and myself meet outside the Empire Ranch House in the early morning, drive a few minutes away, shoulder our backpacks and walk down through mesquite and cottonwoods to the canyon bottom. Then we look for tracks of the creatures who truly inhabit this land. Although we have yet to find the two biggest of our five focal species, the bear or jaguar, we have found the delicate long-fingered tracks of the coati, the round pads of bobcats, and the big prints of the mountain lion, which always makes you want to look back over your shoulder.

The best thing about this study, for me, is getting a glimpse into the creatures who move while we are still in bed. By sunrise, the trails of rabbits, deer, tortoises, coyotes, snakes, birds and even bugs have already been laid. All I can do is follow them a little while through the wild landscape, and be glad this landscape is preserved for them.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Janice Przybyl, Sky Island Alliance, 520 624-7080 x203.

Vernacular Architecture Forum Tours the Empire Ranch House

The Empire Ranch House and surrounding property recently received important new historical attention in being selected as a study site by the Vernacular Architecture Forum. ("Vernacular" used here in the dictionary sense of "native or indigenous to a country.")

The Vernacular Architecture Forum was formed in 1980 to encourage the expanding study and preservation of American traditional domestic and agricultural buildings, industrial and commercial structures, and landscapes as resources for multidisciplinary study of America's history and social fabric.

Two hundred historians, designers, archeologists, folklorists, curators, and preservationists converged in Tucson for their 25th Anniversary Conference, intent on learning and experiencing a few chosen architectural treasures of Southern Arizona. Empire Ranch was one of those honored treasures, visited on April 14. After numerous lectures and a ranch tour, the group stayed for a tempting home cooked diner by Steve Boice, a descendant of past ranch owners, under flawless blue skies.

As noted in the tour documentation, "Today, the Empire Ranch House—some 29 rooms of it—still reflect, to a remarkable degree, the lives of the many people who lived and worked on the ranch over the more than 130 years of its operation." [Simon Herbert, *A Field Guide for the Vernacular Architecture Forum 25th Anniversary Conference, April 2005.*]



Preservation specialist Eric Means, of Means Design, presents the Empire Ranch story to visiting Vernacular Architecture Conference members. (photo: B. Lehmann)

“I ♥ ER”

The personal handwritten thank you notes—from 35 Elgin Middle School kids to the volunteer staff at Empire Ranch who taught at



Legacy Day this year on May 17th—were among the best parts of the experience.

“I love Empire Ranch” (with a smiley face and two exclamation marks), wrote Christina Lopez, in flawless penmanship. “My favorite thing was the art lesson. I learned to draw pictures with light and shadows, making objects with different shapes.” And Christina's classmate exclaimed, “My favorite part at the ranch was everything” and then she continued with a full notebook page of details.

Legacy Day is the ERF's ongoing “education by experience” program, with strong emphasis on inspiring young people to excel in daily schoolwork. The classroom is rather dramatic, being just over 42,000 acres, with a proud ranching legacy that goes back over 130 years.

Sixth-grader Anita Oliver said, “When you think of a ranch, you think of cattle, horses, roping and old buildings. When you get to the Empire Ranch everything comes alive.”

Thank you to Anna Coleman and the Elgin Middle School students and teachers. Thank you to Dick Schorr, the teaching staff, and volunteers Paul Miller, Larry Denicke, Mac Donaldson, and Robert Katnig, for creating the best of learning experiences for the students.

“I liked grazing. It was awesome,” wrote Gavin Cude describing the Empire class, *A Day in the Life of a Cow*, led by Robert M Kattnig, PhD., Department of Animal Sciences, University of Arizona. However, Jeanette Roelhe commented, “It was fun being a cow for one day, but I couldn't do it forever!”

Truly said, but our goals are to continue Legacy Day events and expand our programs to provide school children multiple days of ranching-based learning. *Photo above: Dick Schorr explaining reata braiding. (photo: B. Lehmann)*

Roundup Art (cont'd from p. 1)

soned wranglers on horseback.

The artists had the run of the scenic 42,000 acres of land and the headquarters buildings. This event was the real thing for western enthusiasts.

It looks as if a tradition has been born. We are already planning a shoot out for next year, bigger and with models depicting some of our local heroes. This is our way of saying thank you for the many contributions that the artists make to the Empire. The artists acquired a myriad of subjects for new paintings. This brings us to the Roundup Art Show...

Partly as a result of the shoot out, the Roundup roster of artists is bulging this year. More artists are entered than ever before. The juried show will again be displayed inside the historic Empire Ranch House. Watch for many new paintings of the Empire, Sonoita scenes and people. This show will be top quality, not to be missed.



One artist gets straight to work during April 14 shoot out. (photo: B. Lehmann)



“Learnin the Ropes” by Charles Thomas (oil, 18”x24”), will also be in the show.

One artist favorite, Charles Thomas, is donating the very image of “The Rancher's Daughter” (see photo, page 1) for silent auction during the show.

Charles, whose subjects are often the people and scenery of southern Arizona, has been in Empire shows both at the ranch and in Tucson yearly, and received a scholarship for gifted artists from Friends of Western Art earlier this year. His powerful painting of a vaquero (featured in our May 2005 article on the Tucson show) was inspired at the last Roundup. His generous donation will be on display on the Victorian Addition's front porch.

A full list of participating artists will be available in September, after final jury decisions are complete. But you can expect many favorites, all with fresh visions to excite you.

Doors to the Roundup art show open at 10:00 am. Come early! You won't want to miss this outstanding show!

Membership comes with privileges - mark your calendar...

Members Pot Luck Buffet

Saturday - November 19, 2005 - Noon to 2:30 pm

At the Ranch Headquarters

Join us ... for our annual members only Pot Luck Buffet served from the authentic remodeled 1950's ranch house kitchen and enjoyed in the 1880's Victorian Wing—the ranch house is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Bring your family's favorite dish, and sample the delights of fifty others. Tours of the historic buildings will be available. Invitations will be mailed October 26th.

New BLM Tucson Field Manager Selected

The Bureau of Land Management recently announced that Patrick Madigan, of BLM's Wyoming State Office, has been selected to become Tucson Field Manager, effective mid-September.

Mr. Madigan brings 21 years of BLM experience, including service in Utah, Wyoming and Washington. Our warm welcome to this new member of the BLM/ERF partnership.

Membership Support Grows

Membership donations are now 14% above last year. Thank you for this generous and enthusiastic vote of confidence! We have a challenging goal—by June 30, 2006, a membership roster with 575 names strong. With such a strong bolt from the starting gate, we might just make it.

Your supporting memberships make it possible to preserve the historic ranch headquarters, to hold community events such as this year's upcoming Roundup *Hollywood on the Empire*, to engage the imaginations of young people through educational Legacy Day events, and to continue progress toward developing the Empire Ranch Western Heritage and Education Center.

And, as a member, you are the first to know about events and news of the Foundation through your free annual subscription to *Empire Ranch Foundation News*, and you receive private invitations to events not open to the general public.

If you've not yet renewed, please take a moment right now. Clip the 2005-2006 Membership Reply below and please mail it to us with your check or charge authorization.

We need you!

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates recent donations sent in memory of:

Walter Armer, Sr., Ray Bergier,
 Clorene Bidegain, Kitty Boice,
 Paul Brink, Blake & Jane Carrington,
 Janet Donaldson Family, Earl F. Glenn,
 Carey Ingram, Dusty Vail Ingram,
 Pearl LeGendre,
 Malcolm McNaughten Rorty,
 Julia Scribner Ruch, Louis Sands,
 Al & Russ Vail
 Mae & Edgar Wyatt

Working Calendar

August

20 Board Meeting

October

1 Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Sale

November

19 Board Meeting and Officer Elections

19 Members' Potluck Lunch

January

23 Opening Day "Empire 100" Art Show & Sale, Tucson, AZ (to be open through February 24, 2006)

Recollections of Hollywood on the Empire



The movie *Last Train from Gun Hill* (1959), is one of many westerns that were filmed on and around the Empire Ranch with the permission of the Boice family. Mary and Bob Bowman, longtime neighbors and friends of the Boice family (pictured above to the left of actor Anthony Quinn, and to the right of Mary Boice and director Hal Wallace), were kind enough to share this photo and its story with us...

The Bowmans had been branding cows when Mary Boice drove up to suggest they join her in taking a look at the film site. As they neared, someone came running over waving them off, saying "You just ruined a take by driving through it!" However, when Mary Boice gave her name, he was very cordial and escorted them to the filming site. There, Hal Wallace graciously met with them, invited them to dine, and arranged for the above photo.

In telling the story, Mary Bowman laughed, saying her smile may appear somewhat strained for the picture—she explained she had accidentally backed up into a barrel cactus just before the shot was taken.

2005/2006 Membership Reply

Yes, I want to help save the Empire Ranch for future generations!

Name: _____

Street/P.O. Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

Check enclosed MasterCard Visa Card

_____ / _____
 Card Number Exp.Date. Signature

This membership donation is also in memory of _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION



- \$25 Homesteader
- \$50 Total Wreck Miner
- \$100 Wrangler
- \$250 Vaquero
- \$500 Jefe
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$5,000 Cattle Baron
- \$10,000 Territorial Governor
- \$ _____ Other

Please Mail To: Empire Ranch Foundation, P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637

The Empire Ranch Foundation has an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit classification; donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.